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To: jschatz

Subject: Project scenario presented by J.Goldin.

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Joseph Goldin

GIVE OUR DREAM A CHANCE

Proposed script of a TV programme on November 7, 2017

The project under the motto "Give Our Dream a Chance" has been awarded second prize at a recent city-wide competition for the best idea on getting the city of Moscow into appropriate festive garb to mark the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution of 1917 in Russia.

The competition, which was held in June 1987, was jointly sponsored by a number of public and government organisations including the City Council of Moscow, the Ministry of Culture of the USSR, the Young Communist League (the Komsomol), the Moscow branch of the Artists' Union of the Russian Federation and the Journalists' Association of the USSR.

"What if... on November 7, 1987, the 70th Anniversary of the October Revolution, we take a journey into the future, into the year 2017, the centenary of the Revolution? The idea is to stop all traffic down Kalinin Avenue and convert the entire space in front of the huge electronic screen and its immediate vicinity into one huge open-air theatre to be linked via "space-bridge" with motion-picture studios in Moscow and in other countries". (Details of this portion of the project are described in the Supplement).

Actually this project took shape following a series of successful joint experiments with the "Good Evening, Moscow" program department of Central Television's Moscow service. These included a TV hook-up between the recent international conference on "Cooperation in Space for Peace on Earth" and an electronic cafe in San Francisco and on Arbat pedestrian mall in central Moscow, a videophone hook-up that brought together for the first time in a live exchange operators of the international telephone exchanges in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA and in Moscow; off-the-cuff on-the-street interviews taken during the recent "Moscow Day" celebrations, and the children's carnival on Hallowe'en, October 31, that brought together on a Photophone exchange a group of Moscow school children and their US counterparts. All these episodes were later aired on the Moscow channel of Central Television and were applauded by viewers.

And now to the substance of the project.

"I feel we should speak about the future of the early days of Soviet Russia", so wrote Osip Mandelstam more than fifty years ago. We are now living through a period when the validity of the poet's prediction can be put to a practical test. The early days of Soviet Russia, as embodied by cooperatives and glasnost, the spirit of openness, is at the core of the current drive of perestroika, and the future of this invigorating process that we are privileged to witness fully deserves public attention on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

...Sergei Chernov, the presenter of the hot-news (outside broadcast camera) segment of the "Good-morning, Moscow" programme will be 54 years old in 2017. Whatever he will have become by that date, it's a safe bet that he will not decline an invitation to appear in the programme marking the centenary of the Revolution.

We are in Kalinin Avenue now looking at the large electronic screen coming to life as the signature tune plays and the date November 7, 2017, flashes on.

The entire space in front of the screen and in the vicinity will be arranged in much the same way it was organised on the eve of the 70th Anniversary of the Revolution: chock-full of brightly coloured stalls and hawkers milling around within the whirlpool of humanity. But with one difference: the management of Moscow's cooperatives has accepted our suggestion to allow their members to sell their merchandise during the galashow to be displayed on the electronic screen. They will also be allowed to treat people in the crowd, notably children, to their goodies free of charge.

Sergei Chernov, made-up and dressed in the height of the 21st century fashion, will open the show by congratulating the viewers on the great holiday. He might mention that after the year 2000 more and more people began to look forward to the momentous red-letter day, the centenary of the October Revolution. The great day has now arrived.

Sergei holds a video cassette with the inscription: to be aired on November 7, 2017.

Sergei announces: "This video tape carries the greetings of the people of Moscow recorded thirty years ago, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution, and meant for us in the year 2017".

The video tape will be played on the huge electronic screen (which, for once, will be functioning faultlessly without any hitches) and a cross-section of Muscovites of every age and walk of life will appear on the screen, suddenly taking on equal importance despite their different backgrounds and status in society, on this supremely democratic occasion. They will share their vision of the city of Moscow on the day of the centenary of the Great October Revolution.

Academician Dmitry Likhachev, President of the Soviet Cultural Foundation, is certain that in 2017 Moscow and Leningrad will be

linked by super-conductivity-cushion mono-rail trains and it will be impossible to tell Muscovites and Leningraders apart, the close interaction, socially and otherwise, in the melting pot of fully-integrated society will have taken care of the essential differences between the people of the two cities.

11-year old Polina Osetinskaya, the piano prodigy, hopes that global concerts of classical music broadcast worldwide by live space bridges will become a global tradition to be observed on June 22, the summer solstice.

Andrei Voznesensky, the poet, displaying characteristic wit, will probably sympathise with tomorrow's Muscovites who cannot imagine, by any stretch of the imagination, that the city's largest cultural centre in Red Square with its space television terminals was once the site of the city's busiest department store,

A well-known construction worker who once initiated the self-financing teamwork method in housing construction, will address Moscow viewers and passers-by thronging the pedestrian mall in the vicinity of the large electronic screen on the desirability of having pedestrian malls in each of the city's residential neighbourhoods, as one way of escaping social isolation in the security and boredom of self-contained flats and individual homes...

The monologues will be interspersed with video clips showing the tangible realisation of some of the visions of our contemporaries.

"One Day in the Life of the Soviet Union" came out 30 years ago", Sergei says as he thumbs through the Album no one in Moscow has seen yet. 41000 Soviet and American photographers who were joined by their counterparts from other countries took a total of 250,000 pictures from which the final selection for the album was made. But on May 15, 1987, the day immortalised by the photographers of the "One Day..." TV crews were also out on their shoots. Let me show you one episode they shot, which for some obscure reason is missing from the album.

"Orchestra rehearsal" flashes on the electronic screen as we see members of the symphony orchestra under Dmitry Kitayenko, a leading Soviet conductor. The remarkable thing is that the musicians sit on chairs on the lawn right beneath the screen and play for the spontaneous crowd in front of the screen quite ignoring the noise of the traffic down Kalinin Prospekt.

"This is the rehearsal" of the first-ever global concert of classical music. The rehearsal was held on the 22nd of June, 1987", explains the Host, "you can see American photographers in the crowd taking pictures. But these were not included in the album, apparently because the editors did not believe that such a concert would ever take place".

(This video footage shot by the TV crew directed by Vladimir Voroshilov has not been released by public distribution and when shown will have an impact similar to that of long-forgotten documentaries of the 1930s, when so many pioneering initiatives originated.

"Around that time, in Vienna, the new UN centre was being prepared for inauguration complete with the monument of the five continents in front of it", continues the Host. "These five huge boulders have been contributed by the five continents of the earth, including one from the Soviet Union to represent Euro-Asia..."

"It was an exciting time", exclaims the Host. The documentary clips bring back memories of his youth...

"D'you remember how we totally believed the inexhaustible imagination of this most popular art form in those days! Let's recall the famous movie "Odessey 2001" by Stanley Kubrik. (We watch episodes from the film in which an astronaut calls his family back on earth by video telephone right from his spacecraft.

"But much earlier, in the same year of 1987, the year of the 70th Anniversary of the October Revolution, Soviet and American operators of international telephone exchanges held their first live photophone exchange by satellite, to make their important job more lively and interesting in human terms for the technical personnel on both sides", says the Host as he plays the video tape of the October 7 Photophone hook-up between telephone operators of Pittsburg and Moscow.

Well, even before this moment, as soon as the Host appears on the pedestal in front of the screen, he will look at the screen and Djuna will stare back at him from the screen with these words of stern warning: "You better follow my advice, otherwise thirty years from now you will lose all you have". Whereupon she will smile softly and rather unexpectedly, give the audience a wave and go back to her favourite passtime - doing yet another of her self-portraits in oil.

...And from this moment on the fading image of the future on the screen, is slowly replaced by a surge of people from Kalinin Prospekt. During the international film festival last summer we used the screen to keep the people informed of the progress of the film festival showing the more interesting highlights on a regular basis playing on the screen video clips from the film makers' "Professional Club" from Moscow's Cinema House. The things we showed on that occasion! Indeed, it's difficult to think of what we did not show. Clowns and buffoons dressed like nothing on earth, mimes and film stars, pop groups and dancers, etc. But as soon as crowds in the Kalinin Prospekt saw themselves on the electronic screen their mood changed drastically along with the expression on their faces, their posture, and the entire image of a being that has finally awakened from a long period of hibernation... True, this may be a far cry from the excitement of the downhill event, of sky diving, or the pandemonium of a live performance by a heavy metal group, but even so this is an important first step towards a meaningful change in the public consciousness towards shift in public perceptions of the possible and the impossible, i.e. an essential element of spiritual and mental perestroika. The first step into the wonderland of glasnost and openness.

...One final thought... If the celebrated French choreographer Bejar found it fitting to end his final performance from Leningrad which was televised to Paris live by spacebridge with a mass dance by the entire company, it is equally fitting for us to complete this celebrational programme with scenes of general festivities with close-ups of faces in the crowd in front of the screen looking into this electronic mirror which moments ago showed them a clear image of the future which from now on we and them have to work together to bring about.

(the end)